

FACT SHEET

Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater

Introduction

The *Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater* (Comprehensive General Permit) is a new wastewater discharge general permit that will include discharges from three current general permits (*General Permit for the Discharge of Water Treatment Wastewater*, *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water*, and *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Water*), a former general permit (*General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Boiler Blowdown Wastewater*) as well as some common discharges that were previously not included under any general permit (fire suppression testing wastewater, hydrant flushing wastewater, potable water system tank and pipeline draining wastewater).

Development of the Comprehensive General Permit incorporated the following concepts:

- The consolidation of multiple general permits
- Removal of unnecessary permit conditions
- Focus on end-of-pipe permit effluent limits

Changes to the permits include the following requirements:

- Special conditions requiring an evaluation of new discharges to “impaired waters” or waters that have undergone a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis (Section 3(b)(10)).
- Qualified Professional certification expedite Department processing of registrations and to ensure that the permittee will be able to comply with general permit terms and conditions (Section 3(b)(12)).
- A monitoring plan be submitted with each registration (Section 4(c)(2)(O)).
- Use of NetDMR to electronically report monitoring results for all discharges to surface water that require a registration (Section 5(f)(1)).
- A common effluent limit table for all surface water discharges covered by this general permit

Specific Changes from the *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water* (Non-contact Cooling Water General Permit)

Past registrants under the Non-contact Cooling Water General Permit will recognize that many of the conditions from that permit have been carried over to the Comprehensive General Permit. Some of the specific changes under the Comprehensive General Permit include:

- **Increase in the maximum daily flow of a discharge to the ground from 50,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 500,000 gpd** (Section 5(a)(2)(I)). This change will allow the discharges from some geothermal heat exchange wells across the state that currently require an individual permit to be covered under the Comprehensive General Permit.
- **Maximum temperature limit of 100°F at point of discharge** (Section 5(a)(B)(ii)). This limit will work in conjunction with the requirements at Section 5(a)(B)(i) that prevent the temperature of the receiving water from exceeding 85° F for freshwaters and 83° F for marine waters.
- **Addition of temperature monitoring for discharges to surface water** (Section 5(c)(9)). Registrants will be required to monitor the temperature of the non-contact cooling water at the discharge point weekly and monitor two points monthly within the receiving waterbody (one upstream of the discharge and one at a sufficient distance downstream to allow for mixing).

Specific Changes from the *General Permit for the Discharge of Water Treatment Wastewater* (Water Treatment Wastewater General Permit)

Past registrants under the Water Treatment Wastewater General Permit will recognize that many of the conditions from that permit have been carried over to the Comprehensive General Permit. Some of the specific changes under the Comprehensive General Permit include:

- **The addition of “Potable water system draining of tanks and pipelines” as a discharge category in the Water Treatment Wastewater category section** (Sections 5(a)(3)(O) & (P)). These discharges previously required registration under the Hydrostatic Pressure Testing general permit or were not covered by any general permit. Maintenance draining of tanks and pipelines was not specifically covered under the Water Treatment Wastewater general permit.
- **Requirement of an Aluminum Effluent Compliance Plan for registrants who cannot meet the aluminum effluent limits in Table 5.3** (Section 5(a)(3)(R)). The aluminum limit has changed from a concentration limit previously independent of the discharge flow to a limit dependent on the ratio of the discharge flow to the 7Q10 low flow of the receiving water body. Registrants who cannot meet this new EPA recommended effluent limit will be required to submit a compliance plan detailing steps their facility will take to meet the aluminum effluent limit within three years of the effective date of the Comprehensive General Permit.

Specific Changes from the *General Permit for the Hydrostatic Pressure Testing* (Hydrostatic Pressure Testing General Permit)

- **Hydrostatic Pressure Testing of Petroleum Tanks and Pipelines** has been added as a discharge category whereas previously only natural gas pipelines were covered.

New authorizations under the Comprehensive General Permit

- **Fire Suppression System Testing Wastewater and Hydrant Flushing Wastewater** would be authorized with conditions listed in Section 5(a)(5) & (6)
- **Discharges of Boiler Blowdown Wastewater to the ground** would be authorized with conditions listed in Section 5(a)(7). Discharges of boiler blowdown to the sanitary sewer are authorized by the General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharge of Sewer Compatible Wastewater.
- **Discharges of Low Flow Water Treatment Wastewater in Section 5(a)(3)(M & N) which is defined as follows:**

“Low Flow Water Treatment Wastewater” or “LFWTW” for the purpose of this general permit means:

- 1) a maximum of 500 gallons per day of wastewater generated by a point of entry water treatment device for the treatment of well water used to supply potable water to a residential building or institution or a non-residential building and
- 2) where the treated water is not purchased by another party and
- 3) does not include discharges from treatment system components for the removal of radionuclides and
- 4) the discharge does not fall under the jurisdiction of the CT Department of Public Health.